

S Finbar's Catholic Primary School



St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School
& Early Years Centre

Spirituality Development Policy

2024 - 2026

Our Mission Statement

In God's love we learn and grow together

Founded upon Catholic principles of; dignity, solidarity,
the common good and peace,
we aim to inspire and celebrate each child's spiritual,
intellectual, emotional,
physical and creative growth.

In our safe and caring environment, we share strong,
positive relationships with each other as well as the local
community. Learning about each other's lives locally
and the wider world teaches us the value and unique
talents of everyone.

We will achieve our goals by enhancing pupils' self-
esteem, their self-respect, respect for others
and for all of God's creation.



We will learn and grow together



In God's love we learn and grow together

Rationale

At St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School, we understand that spiritual education plays a key role in helping students gain deeper insights into their own lives. It involves the development of personal beliefs and values, and raises fundamental questions about the purpose of life, which shape both personal and social behaviour.

Spiritual growth encourages reflection, assigns meaning to experiences, and emphasizes the importance of non-material aspects of life and a connection to a lasting reality. This development is essential for the holistic growth of every pupil. It nurtures curiosity, the driving force behind learning, fosters self-awareness and relationships with others—both of which are essential for thriving in society—and instils a sense of awe, wonder, creativity, and a desire to find meaning and purpose in life. Moreover, it helps pupils build a spiritual understanding of their place within the school and parish community.

Aims

At St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School, we believe that spiritual development is rooted in Christ's mission:
"That all may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

This involves the ongoing development of the entire potential of each individual made in the image and likeness of God and finding fulfilment in God alone. Pupils' spirituality is promoted and developed through the entire educative process but especially through the distinctive Catholic nature of the school, the curriculum – particularly Religious Education and Collective Worship.

We aim to develop spirituality through:

- The development of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us which are underpinned by Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Developing understanding of feelings and emotions which causes us to reflect and to learn.
- Pupils developing recognition that their insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire or guide them in life.

Purpose

To ensure that pupils' experiences, at least in school, are conducive to spiritual growth so that:

- Pupils are open and responsive, aware of their self-worth, uniqueness, identity, gifts and talents and are able to celebrate their own and others' achievements
- Pupils are trusting, in themselves, in others and in God
- Pupils are willing to engage, to take responsibility and to do what is right with courage and hope
- Pupils will be able to love others, be generous in spirit and respond well to hardship, limitation, frustration and loss
- Pupils have a sense of awe, wonder and mystery and an understanding of the quality of silence and awareness

Guidelines for Spiritual Education

Through our life in school and our curriculum, we will offer:

- Positive and realistic examples
- Positive role models
- Opportunities for discussion
- Support and advice
- Personal target setting

Promotion of Spiritual Education

Spiritual Education will be promoted by developing an attitude to life based on:

- Development of personal beliefs including religious beliefs
- Appreciation that people have both individual and shared beliefs on which they base their lives
- Growing awareness of the way in which personal understanding contributes to personal identity
- Understanding that one's inner resources provide the ability to rise above everyday experiences

A sense of awe, wonder and creativity inspired by exploring:

- The natural world
- Mystery
- Human achievement with the arts and science

A search for meaning and purpose in life by:

- Developing appropriate responses to the challenging experiences of life such as beauty, suffering and death
- Being concerned by injustice and aggression and their effect on others
- Growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to use such feelings as a source of growth and human experience

Self-awareness and relationships

Self-awareness and relationships with others will have, at the heart of all we do, these key principles:

- Developing self-respect
- Fostering an appreciation of the individuality of others
- Recognising that every individual has worth
- Building up relationships with others
- Fostering a sense of community

Practice

Developing each person's spirituality is the responsibility of the whole school community.

We address spirituality **explicitly** through:

- The teaching of 'Come and See' and the new Religious Education Directory 'To Know You More Clearly'
- Citizenship and British values
- Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- Collective Worship and assemblies
- Cross-curricular approaches where appropriate
- Drama
- Music

- Reflections
- Sacramental preparations
- Liturgical celebrations
- Planned visits to church
- Within the teaching of other faiths
- Visits and visitors to school
- The implementation and delivery of Journey in Love

We address spirituality **implicitly** through:

- Actions
- Relationships and personal interactions, both individually and together
- Unspoken expectations expressed in tone of voice, posture, facial expressions etc.
- The living-out of our school ethos led by our mission statement

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and Full Governing Body on a biannual basis. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff and other relevant parties.

Reviewed and ratified by: Full Governing Body

Date of review: 26th September, 2024

Date of next review: September 2026

Policy Status: Non-Statutory but recommended as good practise

Policy cycle: Biannual